

## Message Text

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13  
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSC-05 L-01

SP-02 DHA-02 /039 W  
----- 125832

R 151627Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8315  
INFO DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 3875

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, PA  
SUBJ: DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE IN ASUNCION

REF: (A) ASUNCION 679, (B) ASUNCION 3455, (C) ASUNCION 3497

1. LAST FEBRUARY, I STRONGLY RECOMMENDED AGAINST THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE IN ASUNCION (SEE REF A). THIS RECOMMENDATION WAS BASED PRIMARILY ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE ATTACHE AND THE MILITARY PRESIDENT OF PARAGUAY, THE POLITICALLY IMPORTANT MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, THE SOURCES OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND THE FOREIGN ATTACHE CORPS. I STRESSED THE NEED TO PRESERVE ACCESS TO THESE SIGNIFICANT SECTORS, WHICH WOULD BE GREATLY IMPAIRED IN THE ABSENCE OF A DAO.

2. THE RECENT DECISION TO TERMINATE THE USMILGP IN PARAGUAY AS OF SEPTEMBER 30 THIS YEAR HAS GREATLY INCREASED THE POLITICAL NECESSITY OF PRESERVING THE DAO. AS REPORTED REFS B AND C BOTH PRESIDENT STROESSNER AND FONMIN NOGUES EXPRESSED STRONG DISPLEASURE OVER THE UNEXPECTED ACTION. THE WERE PARTICULARLY UPSET BY THE FACT THAT BOLIVIA, PARAGUAY'S TRADITIONAL FOE, WAS NOT AMONG THOSE MILGPS IN LATIN AMERICA ALSO SLATED FOR  
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EARLY TERMINATION.

3. WHILE THIS REACTION WILL NO DOUBT BE TEMPERED SOME-  
WHAT WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, THE ABRUPT TERMINATION OF  
THE MILGP HAS BEEN A BLOW TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS  
WITH PARAGUAY, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE  
ATTACHED TO IT BY PRESIDENT STROESSNER AND THE PARAGUAYAN  
ARMED FORCES. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS IMPERATIVE  
DAO OFFICE IN PARAGUAY NOT RPT NOT BE CLOSED. ANY  
TERMINATION ACTION WOULD CERTAINLY BE INTERPRETED BY THE  
GOP AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF LACK OF US INTEREST IN PARAGUAY  
AND ADD TO THEIR FEELINGS OF ABANDONMENT, PARTICULARLY  
WHEN NOT ACCOMPANIED BY A CORRESPONDING ACTION IN BOLIVIA.  
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE STATUS OF THIS MATTER IS AT THE  
MOMENT, BUT IN LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITH THE  
MILGP, I STRONGLY URGE FOR THE SAKE OF MAINTAINING HAR-  
MONIOUS RELATIONS WITH PARAGUAY THAT THE PRESENT MINIMUM  
DAO STAFF BE PRESERVED.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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